

Lakeshore Repeater Association, Inc.

KR9RK.ORG / KR9RK.COM

Newsletter

June 1, 2023

107 members strong!

A warm welcome to our newest LRA member!

Joseph, KD9SVW

From the board



Contact the board members via email at **Board@KR9RK.COM**

Several members have expressed interest in a UHF D-Star repeater in SE Wisconsin where present coverage is limited. I have sent a letter to the board requesting that we look into the possibility of adding such a repeater to our network. An additional coordination would be required as well as an impact study to determine how this would affect our current network. Membership comments are solicited. Please send comments to BOARD@KR9RK.COM. Further discussion will take place at the July membership meeting.

Our malicious interference group, led by **Steve, N9SEB**, continues to monitor our frequencies, and they have been gathering significant evidence for an upcoming FCC complaint. **Matt, AF9Q**, reminds us that the FCC continues to enforce such illegal activities: [FCC Enforcement activities](#)

VP and Secretary board positions will be re-elected at the October meeting. Be sure to attend this very important meeting. Submit nominations to Board@KR9RK.COM



The most important duty of a club member is to volunteer for service in the organization and its activities. Volunteers are the lifeblood of this and many other organizations. That is why we need YOU. Please support your LRA organization by volunteering your time. Contact any board member for details: board@KR9RK.COM

Volunteers are currently NEEDED for these KR9RK Activities : Club Picnic, Lyons Freefest, Christmas Party, & June 24th-25th Taste of Field Day.

Repeater News

No new updates as the system continues to operate reliably.

A reminder: If you are using a crossband repeater to access the LRA repeaters, please carefully monitor it and protect it from accidental use by setting up PL tones other than the ones used by the repeaters.

Quarterly Membership Meeting July 25

Our next quarterly open membership meeting will be held at the Police station in Sturtevant, Wi as usual. Doors will open at 6:30pm and the meeting will start at 7:00pm sharp.

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Did you know?

Did you know that there are more than 3 million Amateur Radio Operators around the world? How many have you talked to?

Did you know that while we have adopted the term 'QRB' during Happy Hour to mean "Refresh your Beverage", it actually has a more recognized meaning? Look at this complete list of the Ham Radio Q signals and find out what it really means: [Q signals](#)

Did you know that the term "Elmer"--meaning someone who provides personal guidance and assistance to new and would-be hams--first appeared in *QST* in a March 1971 "How's DX" column by Rod Newkirk, W9BRD?

Did you know that all of our LRA repeaters have battery backup in the event of power failures that will keep them running for 12 hours?

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LRA Member Activities:

Foxhunts



June 17 is our next foxhunt. In addition to being a training ground for our newly formed MIA committee, this is a lot of fun. The weather is great now and this is one way to enjoy it! Keep in touch and follow the action at KR9RK.ORG. Better still, JOIN US! Contact **Matt, AF9Q** for details.



Our Skywarn coordinator, **Bernie, N9AZA**, reminded me that June is the month of the highest tornado activity here in Wisconsin. Here's some of the data:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
1844-2014	3	0	18	117	239	449	333	206	126	31	9	6	1537

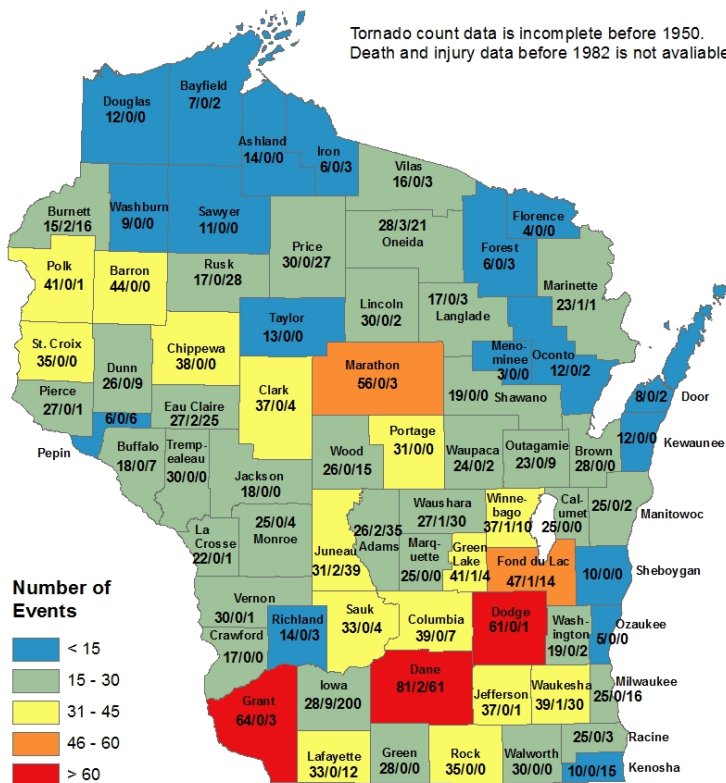


Wisconsin Tornado Events 1844 - 2014

Events / # Deaths / # Injuries

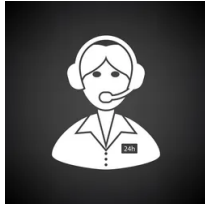


Tornado count data is incomplete before 1950.
Death and injury data before 1982 is not available.



Bernie will be calling for weather spotters to come on line onto the LRA repeaters during extreme weather events. Be sure to pay attention to his announcements and participate in the NOAA spotting networks hosted on our wide area coverage repeater network.

Happy Hour



This is a fun, largely unstructured but moderated “Un-Net” where the moderator writes the often crazy rules. Check in every day after work with your call sign and share your happy thoughts. This group meets daily on both the 442 and 147 Allstar linked repeaters at 5:00pm sharp and lasts for an hour. Be prepared to share your happy thoughts for the day. It is moderated regularly by **K9SO**, **K9WBT**, and **KD1Z**. Fridays and Sundays feature our “surprise” guest moderators. Join us every afternoon at 5:00pm.

“It is strangely addictive - **Tom, W9FL**”.

The beautiful FAT SQUIRREL certificate, courtesy of **Dave, NP2I**, is awarded for 100 HH check-ins. Congratulations to **Greg, N9OOW**, who was recently awarded certificate #50. (A semi-centennial mark for our Century Club certificate!) Over 20,000 check-ins and still going strong. **Bill, KD1Z**, tops the leaderboard list with 885 consecutive days without a miss. **Ryan, N7RSK** is tied for second place with me at 796 (non-consecutive) check ins.

Enjoy our “QRB” time at 5:30 during the happy hour with your favorite “807” at ½ price:



Annual LRA Summer Picnic:

No date has been set yet, but stay tuned, you don't want to miss this annual gathering.

ARES/RACES AND LRA PUBLIC SERVICE NET.



Join us every third Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm on our 2 meter repeater for an ARES/RACES net followed by public service announcements. Please visit [ARES/RACES website](#) for more information on how to become involved and serve the community



LAARC/LRA Jointly Sponsored Hamfest:

Don't forget that we're co-sponsoring the Lyons Freefest on **June 10** this year with the Lakes Area ARC. Yes, that's coming up quickly. Let's make this event even better this year. $\frac{3}{4}$ mile south on Mill St. from Wis36 in Lyons, Wi. About 5 miles west of Burlington. Turn south at the Mobil station to the river. Contact me at VP@KR9RK.COM to volunteer.

Saturday Breakfast



Many of our members meet for an informal breakfast every Saturday morning at 8:00am at the Meadows Restaurant in Franksville. Everyone is welcome.

Winlink Wednesday



Bruce, K9WBT, has been leading a Winlink Wednesday email activity. There has been growing participation. Catch Bruce on the air or anyone on the daily Happy Hour Un-Net. What's it all about? Check out Winlink here [Winlink](#)

Happy Hour Email Group on Groups.IO



We have a happy hour email reflector on Groups.IO now. Over a hundred posts last month. Join here now!

[LRA Happy Hour Net](#)

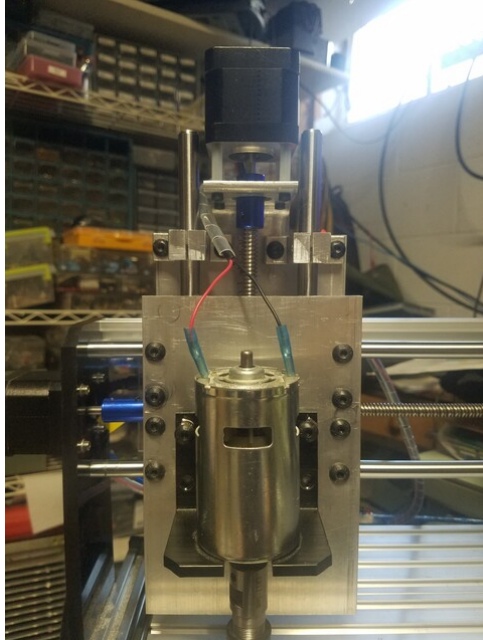
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What are our members up to now?

Bill, KD1Z, is moving from his longtime Lake Michigan lakefront residence at the old Coast Guard Station and needs to clear out his garage. He has posted some antenna and tower equipment free for the taking on the HH reflector. Contact Bill directly if interested.



Dan, WX9EMS, sent me this picture of his new CNC router conversion. Nice looking project Dan! Can you route me to Bangladesh on 20m CW now?



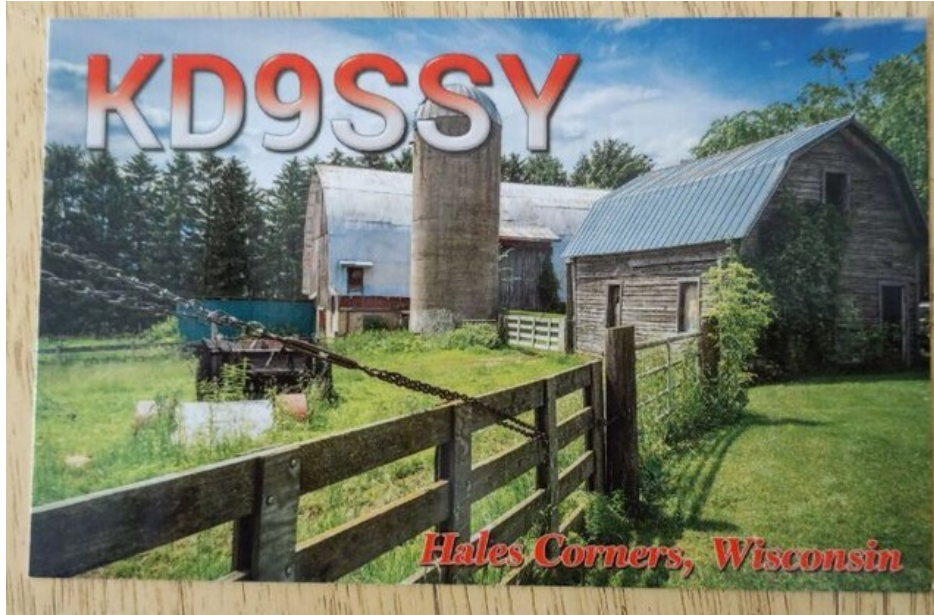
The contractors have completed a new ham shack in the heated garage of **Don, KD9WRT**. I hope to be able to post some pictures next month. Don is putting up his first HF antenna this month after recently passing his General Class license exam and is looking for some helpers



No, this isn't it, but he's well on his way!

Kevin, N9OIG, and **Robin, WB9COW**, donated an Allstar setup to **Mickey, KB9G**, who was having difficulty hitting our repeaters during the HH net from his QTH in Brown Deer. Kevin has also helped me with my Allstar setup. Thanks to Robin and the "Goofy Operator" for "paying it forward" and being great Elmers. Talking to Mickey, you can tell how much this meant to him.

Pierre, KD9SSY, sent me a photo of his new (and very first!) QSL card. A great job, but I'm wondering how big the tower is off picture that requires such a strong guy line?



Spotted:

Several LRA members attended the "Dayton" Hamvention in Xenia, Ohio last month. There were close to 40,000 attendees this year. Someone snapped a picture of our Happy Hour Fat Squirrel mascot there with his newfound treasure (photo courtesy of **Matt, AF9Q**):



Wisconsin QSO Party Participants:

WIQP Results are in and posted here: [Wisconsin QSO party results](#)

The 2023 participants representing the Lakeshore Repeater Association were:

Fred, K9SO: 39,699 points (+ 9 points in the VHF Category)
Dave, NP2I: 26,496 points
Mike, K9MWG: 5,871 points

In the club competition, LRA finished in 19th place this year with 3 entries and 72,066 points
Other area clubs:

Racine/Kenosha ARES/RACES 15,211.0 (1 entry)

LAARC 13,881.5 points (7 entries)

Red Rooster ARC 13,075.5 points (5 entries)

The winning club score was 385,923.5 (27 entries) earned by the Fox Cities ARC.

Still Headless after all these years

The control head project for my headless Kenwood D700a has entered a final phase. **Jeff, KC9JOB**, and I completed the PCB packaging implementation as promised last month. My million software monkeys got the software working with 8 digital encoders, two LCD displays, 8 pushbuttons, and one 3 way switch. The front panel is a PC board with black solder mask and white lettering.

Here's the sweet, professional looking final package **Jeff, KC9JOB**, came up with:



I am calling this the Ham Radio 'BusyBox' as it simply involves 8 shaft encoders and two displays that could be programmed in any way to control almost any radio with RS-232 or CI-V control features. This could even be a remote rotor controller and antenna switch control with features allowing for many other interfaces left over.

Some extra boards are available if you can tolerate that giant K9SO on the panel.

John, KB9VSF, sent this note to the KR9RK.ORG website with his experiences logging into the Happy Hour Net:

This past Saturday, I checked into the Happy Hour net from Veterans Park here in Milwaukee. I was using my Yaesu FT-60 H.T., using about 5 watts of power on 442.000 MHz. To get into the Repeater, I have to go down to the lakefront here in Milwaukee.

I wish that Milwaukee had a net like yours. I enjoyed being able to give a short comment on the radio, as I am not a rag chewer. Keep up the good work. When I go down to the lakefront, I will check into your net. Thank you. 73s.

Gary, N9GE, has been successfully operating remotely with his IC-9700 using RS-BA1



software from his Wisconsin lake home.

LaValle, W9SV, has worked extensively with Gary to get him set up remotely. LaValle is another great ‘Elmer’ in our club.

Dozens of others, including **Mickey, KB9G**, have used our new Allstar capabilities.



Mickey even moderated one of the HH “un-nets” from home using his new Allstar capability. Great Fun!

I need photos and inputs from you for this section of the newsletter. Photos from your POTA activations or volunteer work would be great examples. Send me an email at VP@KR9RK.COM or post your activity on the Happy Hour Reflector –k9so

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Other activities:



Contesting

If you missed the CQWW CW WPX contest last month that's understandable, especially if you don't copy code, but it was a lot of fun. Check out future contests here:

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/weeklycont.php>

While not actually a contest, don't miss out on the fun at the ARRL's annual **FIELD DAY** event June 24-25. Details may be found at the above link or at ARRL.ORG

You'll be at the Freefest Saturday morning, but return and have fun working the **ARRL VHF Contest** 1800Z, Jun 10 to 0259Z, Jun 12, 2023.

DX News:

The HF bands have been HOT! Check out these DX operations planned for June:

[June, 2023 DX announcements](#)

Predicted solar flux

From the ARRL Propagation bulletin (K7RA):

Predicted **solar flux** is 150 on May 26, 155 on May 27 and 28, then 150, 145, 140 and 135 on May 29 through June 1, 155 on June 2 to 4, then 160, 165, 160, 155, and 150 on June 5 to 9, 145 on June 10 and 11, 150 on June 12, 155 on June 13 and 14, 160 on June 15, 165 on June 16 and 17, then 160, 155 and 150 on June 18 to 20, 155 on June 21 and 22, then 160, 165 and 160 on June 23 to 25, 155 on June 26

and 27, 150 on June 28, and 155 on June 29 to July 1, then 160, 165 and 160 on July 2 to 4.

Predicted **planetary A index** is 15, 8, 5, 12 and 10 on May 26 to 30, 5 on May 31 through June 1, then 16, 8, 10 and 8 on June 2 to 5, 5 on June 6 to 15, then 12, 10, 5, 18, 22, 15 and 10 on June 16 to 22, 5 on June 23 to 28, then 16, 8, 10 and 8 on June 29 through July 2, and 5 through the first week of July.

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Stuff You Need (?) Department:

Kenwood TH-D75e



Tri-band operation (144/220/450), D-Star, APRS, and an APRS DIGIPEATER function.

Dress up that old **D-104 microphone** with your very own callsign . Just \$14.99 at [hamcrazy](#):



73,
Fred, K9SO
VP, Lakeshore Repeater Association, Inc.

ADDENDA

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HAMFESTS NEAR WISCONSIN (from ARRL member's and LAARC newsletters):

Starved Rock Radio Club Hamfest
06/04/2023

Location: Mendota Tri-County Fairgrounds 503 1st. Ave. Mendota, IL 61342

Sponsor: Starved Rock Radio Club

Talk-In: 147.120+103.5 W9MKS Repeater - Simplex 146.520

Public Contact: Kurt Clausen , KB9RKU P.O. Box 198 Leonore, IL 61332

Phone: 1 (815) 830-3859

June 3, 2023 – Green Bay Hamfest Location: Green Bay, WI Sponsor: Green Bay Mike
& Key Club Website: <http://www.k9eam.org/>

**June 10, 2023 – LAARC WI9ELK / LRA KR9RK
FreeFest Location: Lyons, WI Sponsor: LAARC /
Lakeshore**

Repeaters Website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/laarcradioclub/>

**Lyons, Wi. Riverside Park: Just south of Wi Rt36 on Mill St. Dawn to noon(?) Lyons is
about 5 miles west of Burlington**

June 11, 2023 -

63rd Six Meter Club of Chicago Hamfest

Location: DuPage Event Center & Fairgrounds 2015 Manchester Road Wheaton, IL

Website: <https://hamfest.k9ona.com>

Sponsor: Six Meter Club of Chicago & Chicago Suburban Radio Association

Talk-In: 146.52 & 146.37/97 (107.2)

Public Contact: Paul Mielnicki , K9LH 9116 Mobile Avenue Oak Lawn, IL 60453

phone: 708-870-4887

June 17, 2023 – Sunshine Swapfest Location: Neenah, WI Sponsor: Fox Cities

Amateur Radio Club Website: <http://www.fcarc.club/sunshineswap.php>

July 8, 2023 – WI9SM Swap fest Location: Oak Creek, WI Sponsor: South Milwaukee

Amateur Radio Club Website: <https://southmilwaukeearc.org/>

August 12, 2023 – CVARC 2023 Hamfest Location: Chippewa Falls, WI Sponsor:

Chippewa Valley Amateur Radio Club Website: <https://w9cva.org/hamfest>

August 26, 2023 – Circus City Swapfest Location: Baraboo, WI Sponsor: Yellow

Thunder Amateur Radio Club Website: <http://yellowthunder.org/>

September 9, 2023 – ORC Annual Regional Fall Swapfest Location: Cedarburg, WI

Sponsor: Ozaukee Radio Club Website: <https://www.ozaukeeradioclub.org/>

September 22-23, 2023 – HRO Superfest / State Convention Location: Milwaukee, WI

Sponsor: HRO Milwaukee Website: Not Provided

November 4, 2023 – ARES Conference / Wisconsin Section Convention Location:

Wisconsin Rapids, WI Sponsor: ARRL Wisconsin Section - ARES Website:

<https://wi-arrl.org/events/>

November 18-19, 2023 – Central Division Convention Location: Fort Wayne, IN

Sponsor: Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society Website:

<http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com>